## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

- 1-42 (Cancelled)
- 43. (Previously Added) A method of limiting usage of a medical probe, comprising:

  detecting an environmental condition to which the medical probe is exposed;

  electronically storing a probe sterilization indicator in the medical probe if the detected

  environmental condition indicates exposure of the medical probe to a sterilization cycle;

  determining whether the probe sterilization indicator is present; and

  conditionally operating the medical probe based on a presence of the sterilization indicator.
- 44. (Previously Added) The method of claim 43, wherein the conditional operation of the medical probe comprises preventing operation of the medical probe if the sterilization indicator is present.
- 45. (Previously Added) The method of claim 43, wherein the conditional operation of the medical probe comprises allowing operation of the medical probe if the sterilization indicator is absent.
- 46. (Previously Added) The method of claim 43, wherein a presence of the probe sterilization indicator is determined when the medical probe is connected to a control unit.
  - 47-52. (Cancelled)
- 53. (Previously Added) A control unit for connection to a medical probe, the medical probe having electronic storage componentry, the control unit comprising:

control circuitry configured to electrically couple to the electronic storage componentry for reading data from the electronic storage componentry, and for conditionally operating the medical probe based on a presence of a probe sterilization indicator in the data.

- 54. (Previously Added) The control unit of claim 53, wherein the control circuitry prevents operation of the medical probe if the probe sterilization indicator is present.
- 55. (Previously Added) The control unit of claim 53, wherein the control circuitry allows operation of the medical probe if the probe sterilization indicator is absent.

56-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Added) The control unit of claim 53, further comprising:

an RF power source; and

an interlocking device electrically coupled between the RF power source and the control circuitry.